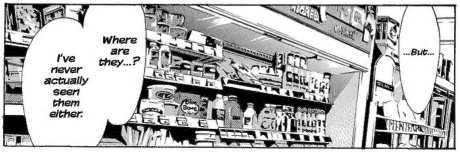
What?!
Her Father is allowing you to live together?!
Well, I didn't hear it from him directly.
Her mom said she'd ask for us...
That's great!
It's no wonder that lady's Rin-chan's mom. She said something surprising.
CLINK
What did she say?
Congratulations for real this time!
As she was leaving, she told me to use protection.
I freaked out.
...

Anyway, do you have work today, Kirishima-san?
No... I have today off...
Huh? What's wrong?
What?!
N-Not a thing!
In that case, I'll go buy a cake and presents for you this evening.
Let's celebrate you two living together.
What... You don't have to do that...
It's fine. You're always helping me, so I want to return the favor!
R-Really? Thanks, then...
Okay!!

A town where you live

#165 A SURPRISING PRESENT

Her mother is right.
STEP
STEP
Kirishima-san seems too embarrassed to buy those things.
For Yuzuki-chan's sake...
...I must give some to them as a gift!!


...But...
Where are they...?
I've never actually seen them either.

Um...
Ah! Um...
What are you looking for?
Rubber?
We have a variety of rubber products. What do you need it for?
Um...
I think they're probably made of rubber...
Con...

It's sort of for safety...
or preventing accidents...
Ah... Um...
It's something you... wear...

Um...
I think it's about this large...

...
Um...

Y-Yes!!
I'm not sure, but I think that's it!
Put in a bag, quickly!!
Okay...

!!!
Is this what you're looking for?

Ah...

=

Celebrate?

Yeah...

Hoshina seemed excited to buy us a cake and present.

I appreciate the thought, but I hate to impose on her like this.

We're just doing what we want.

That's what I told her, but she insisted on doing it.

Huh?
Um..
You don't need to worry about it, Yuzuki.
But... well...
What was that? I didn't hear you.
Who shouldn't worry about it?
Sh- Shut up!
You! It's you!!
ピンポーン
DING DONG
I don't know who "you" is.
Say the name.
I'll tell you when I'm ready! Leave me alone!!
Aww... One more time!
I told you...
CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP
Oh! Maybe it's Hoshina!!
...

Good evening.
I'm here to celebrate.
Is something wrong with Kirishima-san?
Just a bit.
Good timing!!
Dinner will be ready soon! You can wait together!!
Huh?!
But...
He did it once, but he refused when I asked him to do it again.
Huh?
You don't need to tell Hoshina about every little thing!!

He did it once...

...and she asked him to do it again...?!

Huh...

You mean *-chan?

H-Hey, Yuzuki-chan.

When he does that, does he... um... put it on?

So stingy.

I didn't expect Yuzuki-chan to be so aggressive!

Hey!!

You shouldn't do that, no matter how much you like it!!

No, Haruto doesn't do that!

I prefer it that way, too.

I... I see! That's why Kirishima-san was so worn out the other day!!

Really?
Don't you think it's better without it, though...?
No, you need to put it on!!
I was right to buy these!!
Huh?
Here!!
This is your present!!
RUSTLE
Those should be enough for a while, right?
Make sure Kirishima-san wears them!
Um... this...
...?
Finger sacks...?

Ah... I don't know Kirishima-san's size, so I got those. Are they big enough?
Men vary in size, don't they...
What... Well, I'm sure there's some difference...
But I don't think they're that different.
I think my father and brother were around this size.
...Huh?
Why do you know that...?
Because we lived together...
B-But you wouldn't see them!
I don't consciously look at them, but you do see them, don't you?

...You think so?
What...
...an unusual Family...
...But why do you want Haruto-kun to wear these?
B-Because...
It's dangerous...
...no matter how much you trust Kirishima-san
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
Huh?

It's fine. Haruto-kun is used to it.
He might dislike how difficult these would make it.
That's not good enough!!
It's not a matter of whether or not he likes it!!
O-Oh?
THUD
What have you been yelling about in here?
Shut up already.
Kirishima-san, these!!
Please start wearing them, starting today!!
Why do I need to wear those?
Because it's dangerous!!
Huh?

I don't remember doing anything that dangerous...
...Right?
I'm saying your lack of self-awareness will make Yuzuki-chan unhappy!!
...!
You're still students!
It'll be too late IF you wait until something happens!! Don't you understand that?!
...
What's gotten into her...
Fine.
Sheesh. Will you be happy IF I put them on now?
What are you doing?!

It's fine. Enjoy your meal together.
Ah... Miyu-chan, what about dinner...
If you really can't help yourselves, I'm leaving!
Forget it!

Huh?!
Say what?!
But promise me...

Excuse me, then! Enjoy yourselves!!
DASH
Hey... What do you think these...
...you'll use those to prevent pregnancy.

ISLAM

...

...

I think I said something ridiculous to her!!

Ah...

Ah... but what should we do?!

Really?!

Make sure you tell her, okay?!

Don't worry about it. I'll explain it to her tomorrow.

Seems like she confused these with something else...

S- Seems like it...

...
...Is that so?

She's an idiot, isn't she...
It should be obvious.
Y-You're right.

I mean, I'd never fit into one of these.
They'd need to be at least four or five times bigger.

Ah...!! I mean... um...

...
...

Suzuki...
Eiki...
Yes...
In any case, um...
I can't eat...
Ah...!
Such was the case.

A town where you live

I have a little time before work.
It's 2:00.
...Yuzuki starts work today and won't be there, so it'd just be boring.
I could go home, but...
Ah... Haruto!

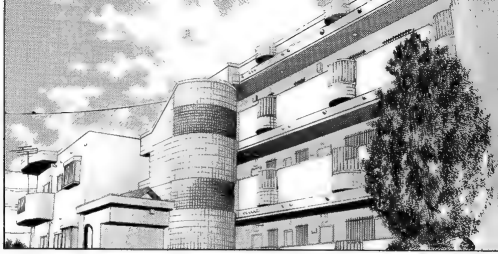
A town where you live

#166 AN UNBELIEVABLE REUNION

It's been a while.
We attend the same college, but we haven't met at all recently.
Y...
Yeah. You're right.
Have you lost some weight?
Are you eating properly?
Um...

What's with her?
She's acting awfully normally...
I thought she was mad at me over Asuka...

By the way, are you free now?
Huh...
Well, I've got work at 5:00...
Why don't you come to my place, then? It's nearby.
...I have a lot of things I want to talk about.
Fine...
Huh?



CLANG
カン
CLANG
カン

Now that I think of it, it's your first time coming here, isn't it?
Yeah.
CLANG
カン
CLANG
カン

CLINK
チャ
Maybe it's about me and Yuzuki...

What does she want to talk about after so long?

Um...

Sorry the place is a mess.

Have a seat.

Ah... There's tea in the refrigerator. Help yourself.

Er- That's not what I...

What? If you don't want any, don't drink it!

...I'll have some.

Sheesh.

This doesn't feel right.

GLANCE
ちら
Huh?
Listen, could you look the other way?
I can't change with you staring at me like that.
Oh, really?
You idiot, I'm tired of seeing you naked.
FLUTTER

Ah...
Not wearing a bra is so much nicer.
Don't blame me if they sag.
D-Don't worry about me!

!!

I-It's not...

It's your fault for putting a mirror here...

I didn't mean to...

...

Hey...

Even I'll get embar-rassed if you look that much.

Um...

...

So, I was going to ask...

I'm not mad.

Sorry.

How have things...
...been with Yuzuki-chan lately...?
...!
Have things been...
...going well since then?
...
I thought that might be it.
Huh?

You're a cute one, aren't you?!

Is that why you were so nervous?! You thought I'd be mad at you?!

Ha ha ha!!

B-But Asakura was really pissed... I'm sure Kanzaki was, too!!

No way!!

I was just worried about you as your guardian.

but Asuka-chan's way over it.

Well, I don't know about those two.

Huh?

Takashi's worried about you, too.

I see...

If things are going well, that's great.

Did he...
say that to you?
No.
It's just a feeling.
What the heck.
Oh, speaking of Takashi,
you don't know, do you?
...know what?
He's currently...
...dating Kiyomi-chan.
...?!
SPLURT

He really is!

When Takashi confessed last week, she said okay!

BAM

He is?!

So was I.

But I guess miracles really do happen.

I was convinced she'd reject him...

...

Why?!

Who knows?

Maybe he gave half his remaining lifespan to a god of death.

Oh?

Well...

That's great, though.

Congratulate him For me.

...Tell him not to get himself dumped.

He told me he couldn't be my Friend iF I started dating Yuzuki...

I can't contact him First after that.

I couldn't do that.

Tell him your-self...

Why not?

Does that mean our friendship...

...is just going to end like this...?

...be so sad...

I'd...

...Hey.
H-He should call me. then.
He shouldn't be so stubborn forever.
You know he's not the type to back down after saying something like that.
I mean, how long have you known Takashi?
...
So, call him first this time.
You're the one who started this.
Okay?
Well... yeah.
I'm sure it would make...
...Takashi happy.

Well...
...if I feel like it.
RATTLE
I've got to go to work.
Ah...!
You still have two hours before work!
...You moron.
I only have two hours...
Huh?

I bet you had another fight with your air-girlfriend.
I know what it is.

What's wrong, Yura?
You seem down lately.
Oh...
Do I?

Really? You don't seem very happy, though.
She's not made of air! She's my beautiful real girlfriend!

Huh?
ブルルル
BZZZ
BZZZ
...
That's not why...

桐島青大
HARUTO KIRISHIMA
...!
...HEY.
I HEARD YOUR GOOD NEWS.

#167 ALL TOGETHER!

Yeah.
that's right.
Kiyomi had apparently been interested in me for a while!
...
ズ"ズ"ッ…
SLURP
Is that so...
I was expecting to fail, but I'm glad I worked up the courage to confess to her.
FIDGET
フイ
FIDGET
フイ
I know it took a while, but I finally made my romantic debut in college.
Huh?
What's wrong? You've been awfully quiet.
...Er.

I was just thinking you're as gross as ever...
Urgh!!
Hey, don't make so much noise. The people downstairs' ll get mad at us.
ROLL
ROLL
Well, you're pretty gross to me, Haruto.
H-How so?
CLUNK
That photo above your sink.
Just how much do you like Yuzuki-chan?
Th-That was...!!
People really change, don't they?
You used to say you'd never take pictures with a girl.
Shut up! I can do what I want!!
...
But...
you know...

It's been a while since the three of us have shot the breeze like this.
Huh?
Yeah...
...You're
right.
A lot has happened...
but I still think of us as friends.
Yeah.
So...
As your friend, I've got to ask...

How many times a week are you doing it with Yuzuki-chan?
...Huh?
What?
You're the worst.
Is that something to ask a friend you haven't seen in a while?
Who cares? It's just us guys here.
I'm a girl!!
How about none?
We haven't done anything yet!
What?
That's impossible! You're living together!
Hey, Akari! He's lying to his friends!!
I don't care.
Well, you shouldn't ask your friends stupid things!!

When you live together, it's harder to find the right time to do anything.

Besides, my head isn't full of dirty thoughts like yours!

Are you all right?

If you're serious, there's something wrong with you.

What's wrong with that?!

Are you telling me you don't think anything when you have a cute girlfriend like Yuzuki-chan!?

Um, Haruo...

Well...

I... I have some thoughts!!

...

You're pathetic.

You really are useless when it comes to those things.

Wha...

...What?

What about you, then?

Why don't you tell us how far you've gone with Asakura?

I mean, it's a more platonic period in a relationship...

I just started dating her last week...

Well... I just could hardly wait to start our life together, and...

You've been acting high and mighty after that happened to you?

Huh?

He tried to kiss her the first day they started going out, and got punched.

What?!

Actually, the other day Kiyomi-chan came by my place and asked if she should break up with him.

Hey... How do you know about that, Akari?!

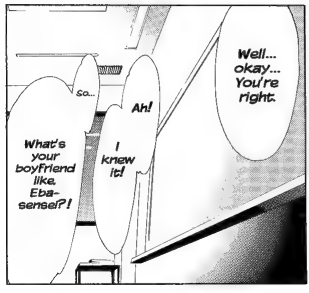
Apparently she's teaching high school kids at cram school.
Wow! Really?!
What did you tell her?
Ah...
Anyway, does Yuzuki-chan have work today?
Hey, Akari...
Yeah, she's usually back around 8:00.
She's a good teacher, isn't she?
She helped us with our summer assignments.
Hey! Akari!
Tell me what you told Kiyomi, Akari!!
Shut up already!!
I care so little, I already forgot!!
Hey, don't make so much noise. The walls are thin.

SEMINAR
That's all for today!
This section of an appears on the exam, so make sure you remember it.
Let's ask her.
What?
But I'd feel bad.
Huh?
Do you have a question?

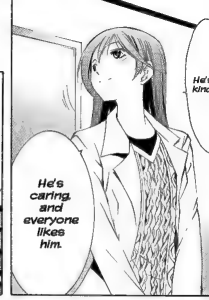
I saw you walking with a man yesterday.
Was he your boyfriend?
Huh?..
合格率 NO.1

Good grief.
What do I do...?

I can't answer that question!
合格率 NO.1
What?


Well... okay... You're right.
So..
Ah!
I knew it!
What's your boyfriend like, Eba-sensei?!

Why Not?!
We'll study harder!
Come on, Eba-sensei!


He's kind.
He's caring, and everyone likes him.

Huh?
Then he must have a lot of friends.
Who doesn't want a boyfriend like that?

...

Let's do our best...
...together...

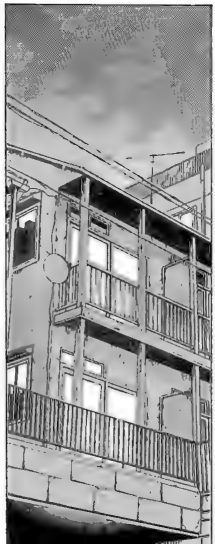
そば

Make sure you review the section we covered today!
I will!
No, it's nothing. You should hurry up and go home.

Ah
Sensei?
Is something wrong?

Huh, this soon?
Well, I'm going to go.

Yuzuki'll be home soon. Have dinner with us.
It's almost 8:00.



It would upset Kiyomi.

...I can't.

...

HuH?

Sorry.

I'm her boyFriend. I can't be friends with Yuzuki.

Seeing you might be barely okay...

...but she really hates Yuzuki-chan now...

No...

You're right. Sorry for being so insensitive.

Well... yeah...

That's how it is, so I'm going to...

I'M HOME!
カチャ
BAM
IS THERE SOMEONE HERE?
...!
T-TA-KAGHI-KUN
AND AKARI-CHAN !!
H... Hey.
NICE TO SEE YOU.

Um...
Why...
Well, a lot has happened, but I guess we made up...
Right?
That's right.
Surprisingly easily, too!
...
...I'm glad.
...Huh?
COMMENCE
The three of you had a falling-out because of me.
I felt so bad...
...YUZUKI.

Ah... Yuzuki-chan

Sorry For intruding!

W-Well, I'll be at Rin's place

Take your time.

Takashi.

What are you talking about?

Sit down!

We were waiting For you to get home

IF I stay...

...Is it okay?

What... But...

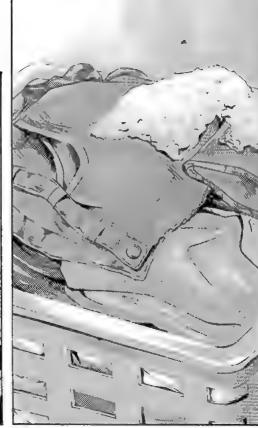
He said he can't find time for sex since you started living together.
!!
"Okay"? Haruto keeps making dirty jokes without you around!
D-Dirty jokes?
Hey!!
What are you saying, Takashi?!
Isn't that was he said, Akari?
That's right. He said he has certain thoughts, too...
Ha ha ha!!
You were asking leading questions!!
You're quite the naughty count, aren't you?
Shut up!!
...

Ah... Okay.
What's wrong?
Sit.
Haruto, now that we're all here, make some dinner!
What?!
Good idea! Yuzuki-chan, what do you want to eat?!
I want Turkish Food!!
You idiot!! I don't even know how to start that!

Destiny
AKIHABARA
ORIGINAL BREAD
オリジナルブレッド
What?
Do I have today off?
I told you last week.
Someone wants to work Wednesdays, so you're changing shifts.
Oh, is that right?
Well, as long as you're here, I don't mind if you work.
Ah... It's fine. I've got laundry piling up.
I'll go home and do it.
A town where you live

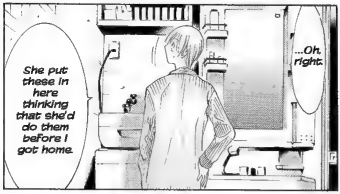
#168 THE UNDERWEAR INCIDENT!

Yuzuki doesn't have work today, either.

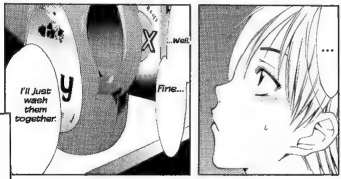


I'll finish off the laundry.
Then we can go out to eat when she comes home.

We haven't really gone on a date recently...


She put these in here thinking that she'd do them before I got home.
...Oh, right.

Whoa...!!
These are Yuzuki's pa...


...well.
Fine...
I'll just wash them together.
...

バタン
SLAM
Huh?
Haruto-kun, you're home.
Yeah, welcome home.
I got the day off.
I thought I'd do the laundry.
ゴゥン
RUMBLE
ゴゥン
RUMBLE
Huh?
Uh...
Was my laundry... in there...?
Yeah.
I'm washing it all together.

What are you doing, you idiot?!
...Huh?
What are you mad about...?
Don't worry. I put your underwear in a mesh bag!
...!!
That's not the problem!!
Don't do that!!
Wha...

I didn't ask you to do it!

Don't do my laundry again!!

Why are you getting mad at me when I'm doing your laundry for you?!

That doesn't make sense!!

You don't need to tell me what to do!!

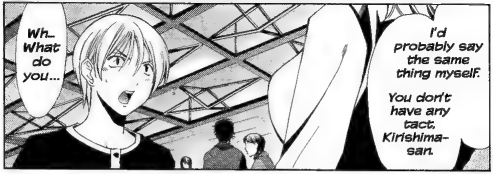
Do what you want, then!!

Is that right?!

CLINK

It's your fault, Kirishima-san!

...
THUD
Why?! I thought I was being nice!
Don't you think she was being mean?!


Wh... What do you...
I'd probably say the same thing myself.
You don't have any tact, Kirishima-san.

But the person she loves
grabbed her unwashed underwear in his bare hands and put it in a bag.
Thinking about what you might have seen would make her want to die.

Think about it.
Most girls don't even want their clean underwear to be seen.

Is... Is that how it works...
Yes. It is.
I wouldn't want to wear that underwear ever again!
I see...
カラッ
CLINK
I used to wash my sister's underwear, so I didn't know.
Well... It's too late to take it back now.
Why don't you buy her a present
and apologize?
I didn't know it was so bad...

カツン
STEP
Looks like
...she's already home...
CLANG
カン
I wonder if Yuzuki's still mad.
She wouldn't talk to me this morning...
CLANG
カン
...
201
NAME
桐島
Kirishima

I-I'm home!!

ガチャ

CLICK

Ah...

Um...

Yuzuki...

ガチ

CREAK

You were doing to help me...
...but I said such cruel things to you!
Huh?!
BAM
I'm sorry!!

It's okay...
Well...
um...

...Okay.
I'll be more careful next time!!
I'm sorry, too!
Of course you don't want anyone to see your underwear!!

...Ha ha.

Yeah, it is.

Huh...?

It's embarrassing to fight about this, isn't it?

...I know the timing's a little weird, but...

RUSTLE

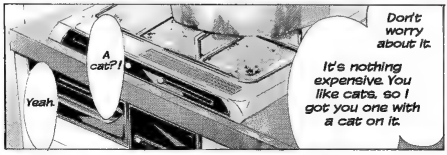
So... well...

Huh?

I got you a present!

It's been exactly a month.
You know, since I moved in here! This is to celebrate that.
I—is that right?
Well... thanks. This is kind of nice.
I hope...
...we'll continue to make more anniversaries.
...Yeah!
I will. Forever...
...Yeah.

What...? You didn't need to...
I got you a present, too, to make up for our fight.
...Ah.

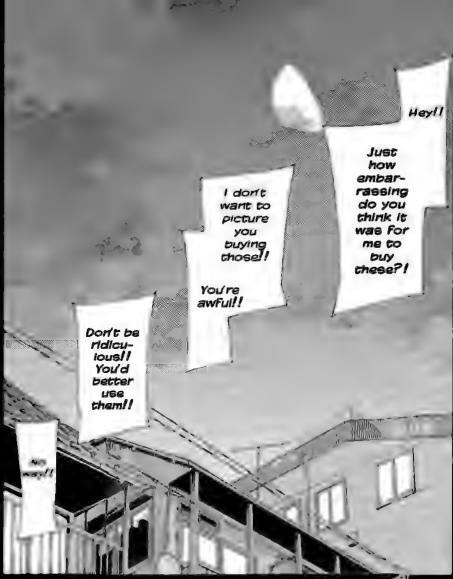

Don't worry about it.
It's nothing expensive. You like cats, so I got you one with a cat on it.
A cat?!
Yeah.

Cat panties.
...

...!!
BAM
もふっ
Why did you get me under-wear?!
I bought five or six of them.
IF you don't like them, you don't have to...

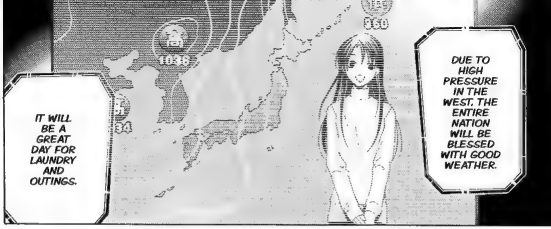
B-Because I thought you wouldn't want to use the ones I touched...!
OF course I'll wear them!!
Why would you get me these?!

ﾊｯ
SNAP
That's not what I meant!!
I'm in college now! I'd never wear those!
Cow?!
Because,
they have cats on them!!


Hey!!
Just how embarrassing do you think it was for me to buy these?!
I don't want to picture you buying those!!
You're awful!!
Don't be ridiculous!! You'd better use them!!
Aw, crap!!

CHAPTER 8
Sounds like they're getting along again.

SPLISHHH
CLINK
CLINK
NOW FOR TOMORROW'S WEATHER
A town where you live


1038
DUE TO HIGH PRESSURE IN THE WEST, THE ENTIRE NATION WILL BE BLESSED WITH GOOD WEATHER.
IT WILL BE A GREAT DAY FOR LAUNDRY AND OUTINGS.

...sunny tomorrow.
It'll be...

Hey.
Huh?

...I see.
カチャ
CLINK
カチャ
CLINK
...

SQUEAK
...Are you free
tonight?
...Yeah.
I am...
...I see.
...Yup.

#169 VISITING A GRAVE

HONK
パァーン

カタン
カタン
RATTLE
RATTLE
カタン
カタン
RATTLE
RATTLE

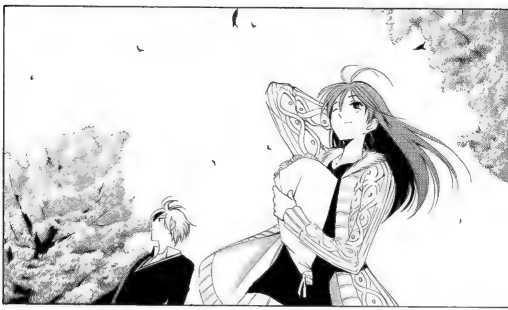
Oh, this?
RATTLE
RATTLE
What were you making before we left?
They're fried eggs.
Huh?
RATTLE
RATTLE
With tomatoes and Japanese basil.
I see.
Yeah.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
Now that I think of it, he liked those.

I'm glad the weather is nice.
Yeah, me too.
...Ah.
Let's buy some flowers.
There's a flower shop on the corner.
You're right.
I bought mine there last year.
What should we get?
I don't know. Don't people usually get chrysanthemums?
Huh...? Wouldn't lilies be better?

Okay.
That will be 735 yen.
You're as attractive as I expected.
You're Aoi-san's little brother, huh?
I'm Kyosuke Kazama.
Huh... A racer?
We're the same age! Let's be friends!
Yeah, I want to be one.

You'd better become a chef soon and bring in the big bucks.
...so give up before I've tried everything.
It would be lame...
I'll need sponsors once I become a racer.
I'll put the words "Kirishima's Restaurant" where they'll stand out!
Let's go, then.
Yeah.
Huh?
Oh. I'm fine...
Are you okay?

WHOOSH



...It is, yeah.
The wind is strong.

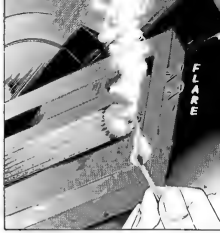
You were chasing after your girlfriend?
Is that why you transferred here from Hiroshima?!
I'll support any decision you make.
Quit blabbering and do what you want.

Yuzuki's the one I followed from Hiroshima!!
Sorry, but I'll be taking her back!!
WHOOSH
I was thinking I might try it.
The surgery.

Even if I get real healthy and live a few more decades...
I'll prove it to you.
...Yuzuki will...
...still always choose me.

STEP

KAZAMA FAMILY GRAVE
風間家之墓
Huh...
The tombstone's been cleaned.
Huh?
Yeah.
He had a lot of friends.
Someone must've visited.
You're right.


FLARE

THUMP

Kazama...
風間家
KAZAMA
STEP
Are you angry...?
About me... and Yuzuki.

What are you doing here on the anniversary of Kyosuke-kun's death?

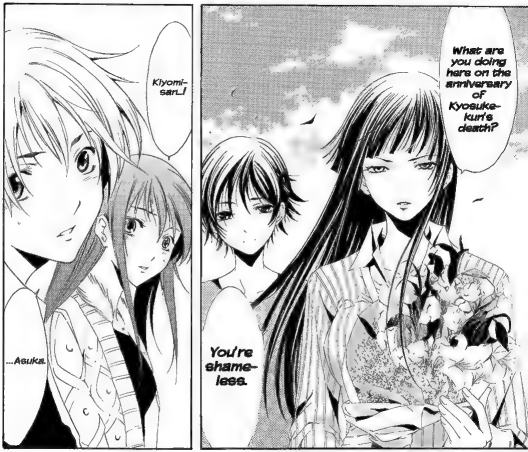
You're shameless.

Kiyomi-san...!

...Asuka.

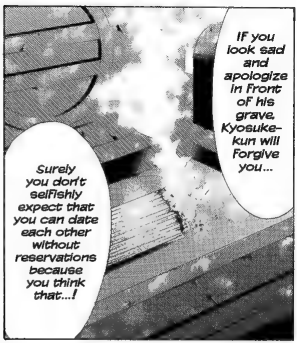
#170 TO KAZAMA

WHOOSH


What are you doing here on the anniversary of Kyosuke-kun's death?
You're shame-less.
Kiyomi-san...!
...Asuka.

Huh?
Well?
You don't think he'll forgive you, do you...?

Kiyomi-chan...


If you look sad and apologize in front of his grave, Kyosuke-kun will forgive you...
Surely you don't selfishly expect that you can date each other without reservations because you think that...!

Just so you know...
...that will never happen.

"Yuzuki is my girl-friend...
I won't let Kirishima have her, even if I die!"
Kyosuke-kun was still saying that on the day of his surgery!!

Do you really expect...
...someone who said that to give you his blessing!?

I...
What?
SQUEEZE
I don't want Kazama's blessing...
...and I don't want to apologize to him...
...and stole his girl?!
WHACK
...!
What, then?!
Did you come to boast?!
That you beat him...
That's enough, Kiyomi-chan!
That won't do any good!

You're one to talk!! Say something to this woman!!
You must have a lot you wanted to tell her!!
I'm Fine!
I don't care anymore!!
You should feel bad for saying that!!
She went out with him because she loved him back!!
...
Of course you do!
There's no way you don't care that she stole your boyfriend!!
I'm not sure I believe she truly loved Kyousuke-kun!!
Wh-What?!
Are you saying it's my fault?!
I didn't say that...

I...
I was doing it for you...
If I say it's enough, shouldn't it be enough?!
I wish you would stop talking about that!!
What?
You reminded me. Asakura...
Tell him...?
...
There are...
...a lot of things I wanted to tell Kazama.

Kazama...
I'm really happy right now.
What?
...
I'm seeing Yuzuki again,
and we're even living together...
On top of that, she says she loves me.
...you died for me.
And it's all because...

GRAB
...!
...
I know how you Feel...
DRIP
DRIP

You're angry, aren't you?
At me...

The girl you love was taken from you...

Your dream to become a racer ended.

...your friends had a huge fight...
Because of me...

Kazama family Grave
And all you can do...
...is quietly watch from there.

...It really is...
...pathetic.
If you're that bitter about it, try coming out of that grave and beating me up.
...
Tell me not to make Asuka and Kiyomi cry...
Tell me Yuzuki is yours...

...

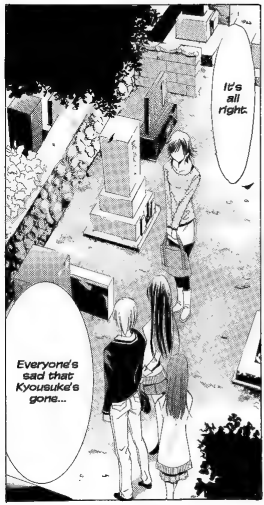
DRIP
DRIP

That's all...

...I wanted to tell you...

I don't care how much you hate me...
I just want to talk to you again...

Haruto-kun...


Everyone's sad that Kyousuke's gone...
It's all right.

I-IF you think...
...you'll be forgiven IF you cry about that...
I...

...so let's stop Fighting.

That's all there is to it...

Asuka...

SPRINT

Hey, Kiyomi!!

WHUCK

I borrowed a bucket and ladle!!

I bet you think I'm a good...

Ah!!

Aaah!!

Takashi-kun!

SPLASH

I spilled it all...

What are you doing?!

...Huh?

You two...

W-Were you in the middle of a fight...?

W-Well...

Huh_?!

You're both crying!!

Hey, Kiyomi!! You didn't need to make them cry!!

I know you're my girlFriend, but you can't do that!

What... I didn't...

Hey, Haruto!! What did you do to my girlFriend?!

I know you're my Friend, but you can't do that!

Calm down.

Um-

Ah!!

You're crying, too!!

I... um...

...

Enough! I'm going home!!
Kyousuke-kun would laugh at me if he knew you were my boyfriend!!
What?!
Hey, Kiyomi.
What are you mad about...
Ehwah!
Stay away from me!!
...
I guess I'll go, too.
I'm worried about them.
Yeah...
Once in a while...
you should stop by the apartment.
Aoi-san wants to see you, Yuzuki-chan.
...
...I will.

...
...You were worried about Asakura, too.
She's my childhood friend...
Well, don't worry.
He's a little unreliable,
but Takashi's a real good guy.

#171 TRICK OR TREAT

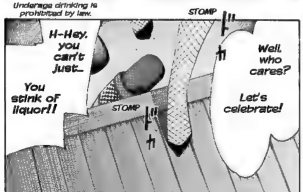
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
Happy birthday, Haruto-kun!
Ha ha...
This is kind of embarrassing.
To celebrate it so formally like this.
But it's our first time celebrating it together.
Well, yeah.

I hope you'll be with me next year.
Huh...
Yeah..
I...
...won't go anywhere anymore.
...
SQUEEZE
Of course not...
DING DONG
!!
Wh...Who could it be at this hour?!
I don't know.
CLICK
Yes?

Trick or...
...treat!

...

Halloween is tomorrow.
Oh? Is that right?


Underage drinking is prohibited by law.
STOMP
Well, who cares?
Let's celebrate!
H-Hey, you can't just...
You stink of liquor!!
STOMP

What do you want?
FLAP FLAP
Can't you tell?
It's Hallow-een!

Trick or treat!
Miyu-chan, why are you dressed like that?
She's drunk... Give her some candy or something.
I see.
We have twice as much to celebrate, then!
Ah...!
Were you celebrating Halloween together?
Yuzuki-chan, put this on!
Let's toast with champagne!
Hey, don't give Yuzuki a drink!!
Um... but...
Who cares?! Your birthday only comes once a year!
You just want an excuse to drink!!
No.
Today's Haruto-kun's birthday.

Champagne is delicious!!
Ha ha ha!!
BRILLIA

Trick or treat!!
Hey~
GRIND GRIND
GRIND GRIND
Happy birthday, Haruto-kun!!

Isn't it?! It's so sweet!
BLUSH
It is!
So sweet!
H-Hey, Yuzuki, I think that's enough...

POKE
This is awful.
What kind of birthday is this...
Ha ha ha! Eye, beef!

!!

No!! It's not hot!!

By the way, Kirishima-san...

Isn't this room kind of hot?

I had no idea Yuzuki would be such an awful drunk, too...

You're just drunk!!

Don't take off your clothes!!

What's your problem? The other day you told me to take off everything except my under-wear.

I DID NOT!

Um... Yuzuki...

I didn't do any such...

WHAM

!!

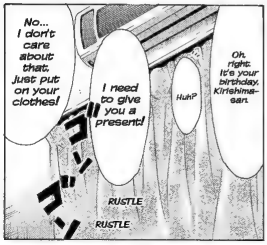
Yes, it is! It's hot!!

I must be remembering when I was burned as a witch in a previous life!!

BOING

SNORE
すや
...
She's asleep.

Huh? Yuzuki-chan, you went to sleep?!
Wake up!!
Nn..
LIFT
Don't wake her!!


No... I don't care about that. Just put on your clothes!
I need to give you a present!
HuhP
Oh, right. It's your birthday, Kirishima-san.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

That's enough already.
If Yuzuki were awake now, she might break up with me on my birthday!
Ah... I'm sorry.

Eat me.
Here, Kirishima-san.
Just kidding!
Hee hee!
I'm about to hit a woman for the first time in my life...!!
I'm kidding.
I know you only have eyes for Yuzuki-chan.
I-In that case, put on your...
So...
There we go.

"Haruto-kun, eat me."
...Come on, say it.
Haruto-kun, eat me.
Don't play with Yuzuki!!
Say you were it, meow!
YANK
YANK
Mumble
But if you don't put that on, I won't like you anymore.
If something happens, will you be able to take responsibility?!
MEOW
You always say it's fine, and I've had enough!! You're an enemy of women!!
MEOW
MEOW...
I'll be forgiven...
...if I hit her really hard now!!
ROAR
THUD
Whoa!!
Listen to her!!

H-Hey, are you okay, Yuzuki...? You're too drunk.
Nnn...
Ah... Haruto-kun.
I want you to eat me, meow.
!!!

Isn't that refreshing once in a while?
Well, enjoy yourselves, you two.
Hey...

バタン
SLAM

I couldn't do that to a drunk Yuzuki...
SWAY
フラ

...
Enjoy our...
Whew

WHUMP
H-Hey, are you okay?!

SNORE
SNORE
Whoa...
Are you calling me you don't think anything when you have...
...a cute girlfriend like Yuzuki-chan?!

I Feel that way some-times...

O-OF course I do...

ROLL

Mmm...

:3 BAM

:3 BAM

Good grief.
I've never had a present as surprising as this.

...
That's the under-wear I gave her

Happy birthday...

CHERK

Nnn...
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
Nnn...
morning...
Hey. Good morning.
My head is pounding.
What is this...
THUNK
THUNK
Must be a hangover.
You had a lot to drink with Hoshina last night.
Did I...

I'm making miso soup with clams. Just wait.
You'll feel a little better once you have it.
Is something wrong?
You seem to be in a good mood this morning...
Huh?
...
I was just thinking you wore them after all the complaining you did.
What?
The under-wear.
You know.
The cat ones I gave you.

...
How do you know...?
Ah!
What did you do while I was asleep?!
I-It's not like that!!
You were drunk and...
You're terrible!!
SLAP
Argh!!

#172 THE DAY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE

Wow, look, Haruto-kun!
It's snowing!
I heard you.
Hey! Snow!!
OF course it's snowing.
It's December.
ズズッ
SLURP

I'm so excited!
I bet it's snowing even harder back home in Hiroshima.

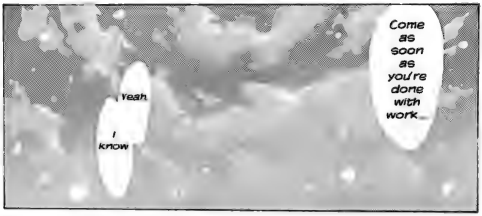
...

WAHOO! 天気予報
JAPAN
My winter courses end on the 29th, so they want me to work until then.
All the kids in my class are exam students.

Hey...
Are you sure you can't come with me?
Huh?
Yeah.

...I see.

Huh...
I'll be a little late, but I'll be there soon.
Don't look so sad.
...sad or anything...
I... I'm not...
...
So...
Well...
I'm worried about leaving you here all by yourself... um...
Everyone else just wanted to go home with you.

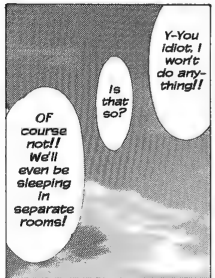

Come as soon as you're done with work...
Yeah.
I know.

We'll meet at the bullet train platform at Tokyo Station tomorrow.
If you oversleep, we'll leave you behind, Akari.
You're one to talk.

I'm sorry you can't come, Asuka-chan.
My family would worry about me if I didn't go home some time.
Plus...
If I go to the hot springs with you, it'll make it harder for me.
Why?
Did we do something?
You don't even know what you did.
SMACK
SMACK
That hurts.
Don't laugh!!
Give up already. It's impossible.
Shut up!!
YAD

Why?
Do you want to go home to Hiroshima that badly?
I'm really excited, though.
...

I'll finally be making my triumphant return with a girlfriend.
I'll be honored.
There's that, too, but...


Y-You idiot, I won't do anything!!
Is that so?
Of course not!! We'll even be sleeping in separate rooms!

...
Huh?!
TWITCH!
I'm sure you're just thinking dirty thoughts.
What are you planning on doing to Kiyomi-chan once you get home?

Akari-chan, can I stay at your place?
Why?!
I really will get you your own room!!
The way you're emphasizing that is kind of gross.
Gross?!

Hey, wait! I'll take you home!!
Don't follow me.
Why not?!

CLATTER
I'm going to go home and get ready for tomorrow.
Sure.
You can stay with me.
Ah... Kiyomi!

Are they really going out?
It's better this way. He's always getting ahead of himself.

Well, then...
CLATTER
I'm going to practice.

See you next year, you two.
Oh, and something crazy happens to Itagaki in this week's Ippo.

Ah... wait, wait.
I've got business at the office. Let's go together!

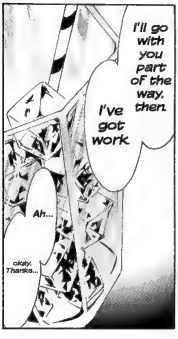
Have a good year.

Don't do that!!

CLINK
カラン…

Don't forget to get me something!
We're meeting at 8:00 tomorrow. Don't forget.

I'm just going home.
Um... you're...


I'll go with you part of the way, then.
I've got work.
Ah...
okay. Thanks...

...
I see...

STEP
STEP

I said I'd go with her, but I can't think of anything to say...
It's been a while since I've been alone with Kanzaki.

Huh?
Things are okay now.

You and Asuka-chan...
...were speaking normally.

Yeah...
Well... I guess.

It happened so suddenly.
I was so mean to Yuzuki-chan...

We weren't in any place to say anything about that.
No...
well...
I don't know.

I asked if she could be truly happy
stealing Asuka-chan's happiness away from her.
I really shouldn't have said that.
Not at all.
It might weird coming from me...
...but I think that's one of the good things about you.
...
Maybe it is...

Anyway, are you going to get yourself a boyfriend?
It'd be easy enough if you wanted to.
I don't think it's that easy...
but I don't know.
IF that's what you want, I'll do it.
What...
I don't care...
I have no right to stop you...
RATTLE
RATTLE
IF that's what you want to do, you should do it...
GIGGLE

It's not as though I don't think about it...
I... just have lot of other things going on...

Y... Yeah...
I'm kidding! You have no right to stop me!

I'd love to hear about it, but I've got work after this...
It's fine. I need to prepare for tomorrow, and it's not a big deal.

Are you worried about something?
Well... I guess.

But...
...

What...
But...
Why don't we can talk about it once we get back to Hiroshima?

We can talk over some food somewhere
Yuzuki'll be late because of work, and I'll have time.

Huh?
Will you come to my place, then...?

...

I've been making all kinds of sweets in my club.
There are a few things I want you to try!
My brother doesn't like sweets, and you know a lot about cooking, so...

Really?!
I'll make some things, then!
Sure.
that's fine...
What...
should I make?
I can't get ingredients in the country-side, so I'll have to buy them here.
Um...
You have some-thing on your mind, right?
Huh?

Yeah!
I have no idea which sweets I want to feed you!!
You haven't changed, Kanzaki.
Th-That's not true! I've improved a little!
I... Yeah.
I look forward to it.
Okay!

庄原市高野町
shobara city takano

SNORE
I get it. Maybe you shouldn't talk.
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
L-Look, Kiyomi... There's so much... snow...

12/25
To 枝葉柚希 Yuzuki Eba
Sb (non title)

広島はブチ雪が積もっとるぞ！
お前、来たらビックリするじゃろうな。 There's a lot of snow in Hiroshima! You'll be surprised when you get here.

CLICK
CLICK
CLAP

A town where you live

#173 NANAMI'S SECRET

I'm going to go home and rest.
Later.
Let us know when Yuzuki-chan gets here.
We'll go hang out.

Takashi, are you okay?
You look pale.
Urp.
It takes seven hours to get here. It really is secluded.

Kiyoshima-kun.

Um... tomorrow...
Can you come over?
Tomorrow?

You said you'd listen...
You know...
Yeah.
Got it.
How does lunchtime sound?
I'll go to your place.
...Sure.
That's fine.
Also... um...
Huh?
Uh... nothing!
I'll be waiting!
O... Okay.

Yeah, anything's fine.
THINK
Haruto, how's hot pot for dinner tonight?
Your sister said she wanted a thin stew.

SOUND

I don't think she actually wants my opinion on her sweets.
I wonder what Kanzaki wants to talk about.

But...

...

Well...
I'll find out when I get there.

神咲
Kanzaki

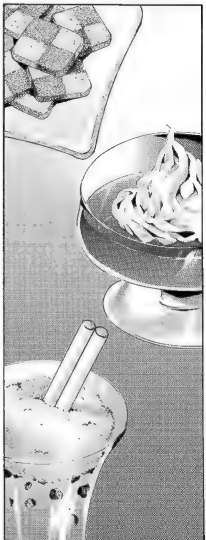
Welcome!
Kirishima-kun!!

RATTLE
ガラッ
Ah... Senpai.
It's been a while.
Hey, Kirishima. It's been a long time.
Come on in! Everything's ready.
O...
Okay, then...

...
What? What are you planning on doing after you drive your brother out of the house?
Nothing at all!
Sheesh!
Go somewhere else!
It's fine.
You're not having an easy time of it, though. First thing you're doing after coming home is eating her sweets.

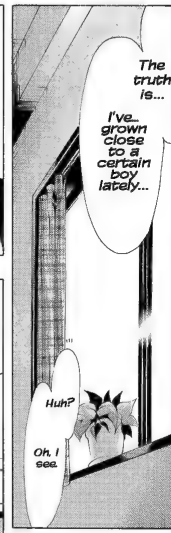
Hm.
How is it?!
I tried adding ground apples and black tapioca!
It's supposed to be like a black pearl in snow!

Well...
It tastes like you'd expect...
CHOMP, CHOMP
You need to add a bit of lemon or something. The apples are completely oxidized.



It also looks way too grotesque.
It looks like you put soy sauce on ground radish and frog eggs.
What?! But I'm proud of that dish!!
Have some of these, then!!
These are non-sweet salt and soy sauce cookies.
Kanzaki, have you always wasted so much food?
What does that mean?!
Anyway.
...Did you really just invite me here to try sweets?
Huh?
You said you're worried about something, Kanzaki.
Let's talk about that.
...

Yeah, okay...
Ah... He's really just a friend, though!
We just happen to sit next to each other in class a lot!!

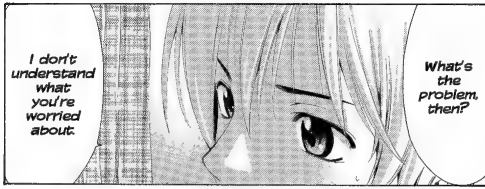

The truth is...
I've... grown close to a certain boy lately...
Huh?
Oh, I see.

Anyway...
Sometimes we eat lunch together.
We text each other sometimes, too.
Um...
The other day...
SLURP
SLURP

He asked me...
...to go out with him...
Really?
So, what are you going to do, Kanzaki?
I told you!!
Oh...
...
That's what I'm worried about...
I don't know what to do...
SWISH
Ah... I see...

He's pretty average-looking...
...but he's so considerate and good...
He's really nice, too...
You seem on board, then.
As far as your feelings go.
I-It's not like that, though...
He just doesn't really feel like a boy-friend...
Ah... He doesn't...
Don't you think it wouldn't be right to start dating him if I felt like that?
Well...
In that case...
...I guess you'll have to turn him down.

B-But he's a really good person!
Besides, don't you think there's something wrong with me because I haven't dated anyone at 19 years old?!
What...?
Well, in that case, why don't you try going out with him?
...
If you're this worried about it, you must think he's at least a little attractive.
Well... that's not actually what I'm worried about...
She's such a pain!!


I don't understand what you're worried about.
What's the problem, then?

Huh?
In high school...
You confessed to me, remember...?
Hey...
SQUEEZE
!!!

IF I...
...had decided to go out with you then...
...do you think we would still be a couple...?
...What?

THUD
THUD

SWISH

KANZAKI...

WHOOSH

No...
I think I still would've fallen for Yuzuki.

...I thought so.
24
25
31
Yester-day?
Huh...
When you didn't say anything yesterday,
I thought that might be it.

23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31
Oh...
It was my birthday!

Ah!
...

S-sorry.
That's why I chose the same college, you know...

You remembered until you started dating Asuka-chan.
I thought I might still have a chance...

But...
...I don't regret it...

My memories of being in love with you...
...are my greatest treasure...
Why do you always...
choose Yuzuki-chan instead of me...?
I don't care if you still have feelings for Yuzuki-chan!! I'll be fine!!
In that case...
I were to be your girlfriend...
Please...
...go out with me...
...look at me...!
Instead of looking at someone so far away...

...Kanzaki!

Besides, even if we had dated and broken up...
...I think you still would have come to eat the sweets I baked.

...
Of course.
So, anyway, will you try these cookies? We're friends.
Open wide.
Huh?!
Hey..
Ah!! They're so salty!!
...to be friends, okay?
So, I hope we'll continue...

Haruto.
Yuzuki-chan's here.
BAM
...!!
Maybe I...

A town where you live

#174 ICE FLOWERS

Welcome back, Yuzuki-chan.
You get prettier every time I see you.
Aw... Not at all.
STEP
Hey.
You're late.
In any case, come in and rest. You must be tired.
SNICKER
Okay!
Why are you acting so cool?
You've been watching the clock and fidgeting since this morning.
Sh... Shut up!!
I knew it!!

Welcome back!!
We just saw the bus go by, so we came over!

Ah...

You'll come won't you?
I'm inviting you there.

...
...Yes.
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

You must be tired from the long trip.
We're on our way to the hot springs. Do you want to come with us?
Oh?
Don't be silly. She just got here...

GOUYA
GOUYA
KANNOSE HOT SPRINGS
神之瀬の湯
So, what?!
Are you going to go out with him, Nanami-chan!?
...
I don't know yet.

I've seen you two eating lunch together a lot.
Isn't he kind of delicate?
SPLASH
B-But he's a really good person!

Oh. so you've already decided to date him.
Huh?
I'm not really sure yet...
...
You're such a pain!

Is something wrong? You haven't said any-
Are you still worried about something?
Ah...
It's not that!
I'm just jealous... of everyone's nice bodies...
What?
You've always been...
...a weird girl...

Underage drinking is prohibited by law.

You're one to talk!!
I thought you were straight edge.
Asakura...
You're drunk, too?

GRAB
In other words, both Eba-san and Asuka-chan are your victims!!
This is all your fault, you cheater!!

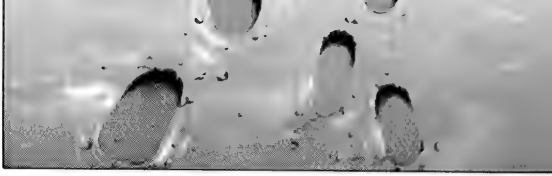
I heard you seduced Yuzuki-chan and forced her to get back with you!!
I... I didn't say that...
Where did this come from?

TWIST
Face Fukushima and apologize to Asuka-chan!!
Please stop.
Kiyomi-san!! It's my Fault!!
Owl!
That way's Kyushu!!

Good grief. They're finally asleep.
CREAK
CREAK
It's morning already...

Thanks for your work, Haruto-kun.
Sure.
You seemed to be having a tough time.
No... I had a lot of fun.
I'm so glad I can talk to everyone again...

...
I see...
We should put out futons for everyone.
They'll catch colds lying on the floor like that.
Yeah.
I'm starting to feel sleepy, too...
Hey...
Can you come with me before you go to sleep...?
Huh?



CRUNCH

Wow...
...

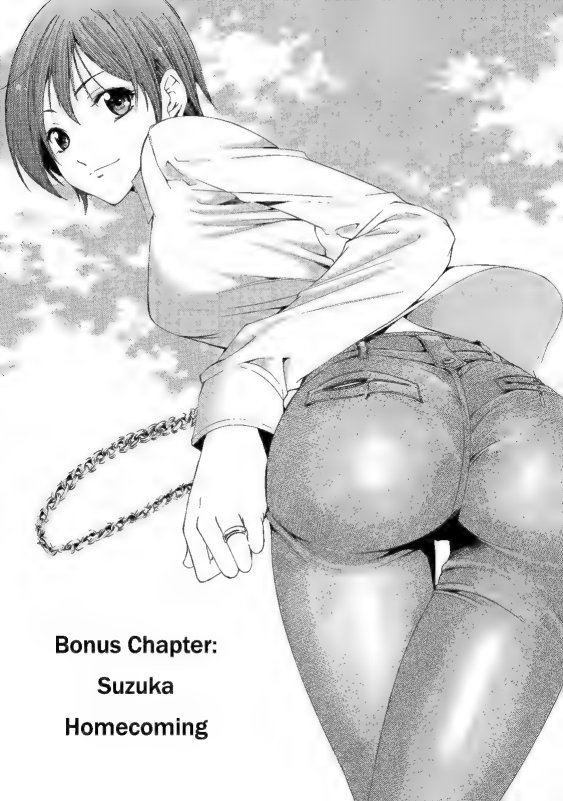
Ice Flowers...
I'm always impressed by their beauty.
...
It was the day before I went back to Tokyo.
The last time we came here...
I was thinking of coming back here...
...if you ever came in the winter again.

A lot has happened...
Yeah.
A lot...
But we're back here...
Huh?
The two of us...
Here.

Yeah.

What?
I think I might've loved you since the first time I met you at the summer festival.
...into you all of a sudden...
What's gotten...

Not much...
I just...
Are you sure?
I smell a lie.
Wha... Really?!
But you had forgotten you met me until you saw that sketch diary.
That was... um...
But it's true!!
Oh, come on.
Continued in Volume 19



Bonus Chapter:
Suzuka
Homecoming

HONK

FIDGET FIDGET
Mom, are we there yet?
I'm tired.
Behave yourself, Fuuka.
We're nearly there, Fuuka-chan.

It's fine. The more, the merrier.
Besides, people want to see their grandchildren.

Ayano-san, please excuse us...
...For tagging along on your visit home.

Yeah, Yamato never comes to the country-side.
I... I can't help that.

I've got a lot to do as a candidate for the Olympics.
I even have to go on tours!

And you lost to Arima-san on one of those tours and are in danger of falling out of the race...
Miho, stop it.
It's not because I lost! I didn't qualify because I had a cold!!
Which is still lame.

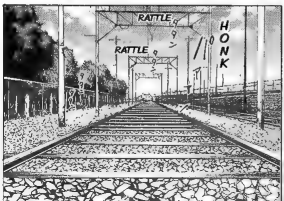
Now that you mention it, Suzuka-chan, you rejected an invitation to the qualifier, didn't you?
I can take care of Fuuka-chan. You should give it a try.

Suzuka, maybe you should go back to high-jumping.
Who, me?
Yeah. I'm sure you'd make it to the Olympics!

Um...

I'm sure she would get into mischief, Ayano-san.
But... she's a trouble-maker, like her father.

Th- That's not true!!
I was a good girl!!
I'll be fine. Miho was a trouble-maker, too.


RATTLE
RATTLE
HONK

Oh...
Were you?

秋月
Akitsuki

He's plowing snow in town. He said he'd be home this evening. Why don't you wait for him inside?
Hey.
Is my brother at work?

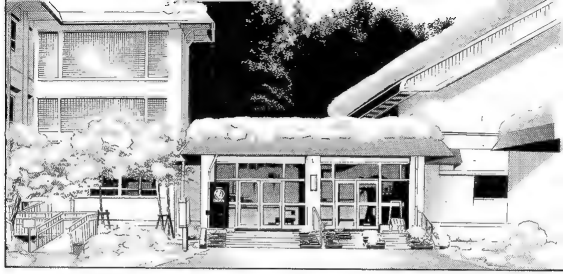
That must have been quite the trip.
Fuuka-chan, you've grown so much!
It's good to see you again.
I'm sorry we can't come more often.

Huh?
Hey, Suzuka! As long as we're here, do you want to check out my middle school?!
It's really cool! The facilities are all modern!!

What? But I want to show her!
I'm sure Suzuka-chan is tired.
Don't be stupid, Yamato.

Go on.
I'll watch her.
I'd like to go...
...but I can't leave this girl alone.
What? But...
It's fine!
Fuuka-chan, want to draw with me?
Hey!!
Who's an old lady?!
Okay!
Okay.
Fuuka, have the nice old lady play with you.
Yes.
See you later.
You two should go on a date once in a while.
We'll see you later.

There's even more than usual this year.
So much snow!
I'm glad I wore my boots.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
In middle school, I walked to school every day in this snow!
No wonder your legs and hips are so strong.
It's a surprise.
You won't believe it!
But...
I wonder. What's a modern middle school like?
I can't wait to see.
Oh!
We're here!
Huh?



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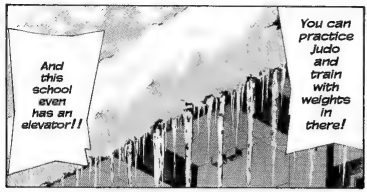

You can practice judo and train with weights in there!
And this school even has an elevator!!

My middle school had one, too...
Oh... did it?
How modern...

It looks pretty normal.
Um...
Huh?!
But... you... It has a dojo!!

I've seen enough. Let's go...
I'm starting to get cold.

Then...
Do you want to see the classrooms?! They have electronic chalkboards!
I don't care about those.
Plus, we'd get in trouble for trespassing.

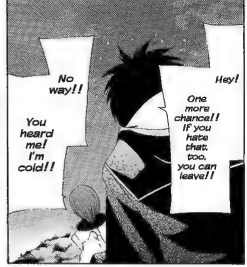
We can go to the ranch!
Or the camp area!
There are plenty of fun places to go! Just pretend I tricked you into coming here!!

...

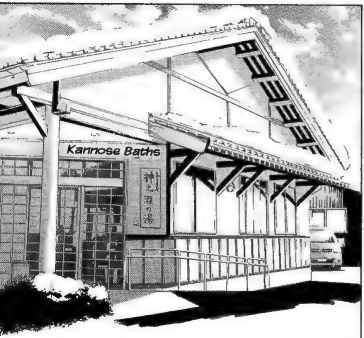
Hey, wait!! Let's go to the ski area!
You'll warm up if you move around!!
Um...
I can't ski dressed like this.

Come on!!
We couldn't see anything because of all the snow!!
...
Sorry...
Look at me!!
Why can't you make plans that work?!
I hate that about you!!
Sorry...
And I'm really cold!!
I'm off!!
You idiot!!
Ah!
CRUNCH

It's the hot springs!! It's a really great place!!
Let's warm up before we go home, okay?!
Right?! Please!!


Hey!
One more chance!! If you hate that, too, you can leave!!
No way!!
You heard me! I'm cold!!

...


Kannose Baths

IF that one's closed, too, I'm really going to hit you.
Wha...
Okay...

I hope this will make her feel a little better.
Man...
I'm so glad this place was open.
When she says she's going to hit me...
...she hits hard...
For real?!
You still haven't done it with Yuzuki-chan?!
Sh-Shut up! We can do what we want!!
And what about you?!
...
They must have just recently gotten girlfriends.
Kiyomi and I are still in the platonic period of our relationship.
Liar!!
You're just can't make a move!!
You're one to talk!!
Sounds like so much fun...
CLUNK
My Suzuka's cute, but she can be real mean.

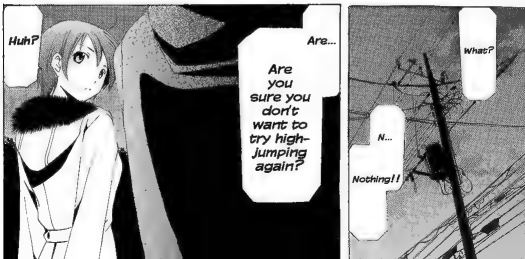
...
Ahh!
That felt so good!

It's nice to relax in the baths...
...once in a while.

Yeah, but there were also some college-aged girls in the baths.
When I heard them talking about their relationships, I realized fighting isn't worth it.
Huh?

Um... You seem to be feeling a lot better.
Did you like it that much?

We've been busy raising Fuuka since she was born.
We should try to get along when we're alone together.
...


Huh?
Are...
Are you sure you don't want to try high-jumping again?
What?
N...
Nothing!!

I'm doing what I want...
...and leaving you to take care of Fuuka.
I'm sorry if you've wanted more than that...

I can make some more time to take care of Fuuka.
If you want to do it, you can.
...

Yamato-kun...

Are you happy to be doing track and field?
There are some guys I really want to beat.
Huh... Well, it's tough, but it's also fun...

You see...
CRUNCH
...I'm happy to...

Let's keep doing what we've been doing, then.
B... But!

...wait with my little girl...
...For the man I love to come home.
SQUEEZE
So...
What...

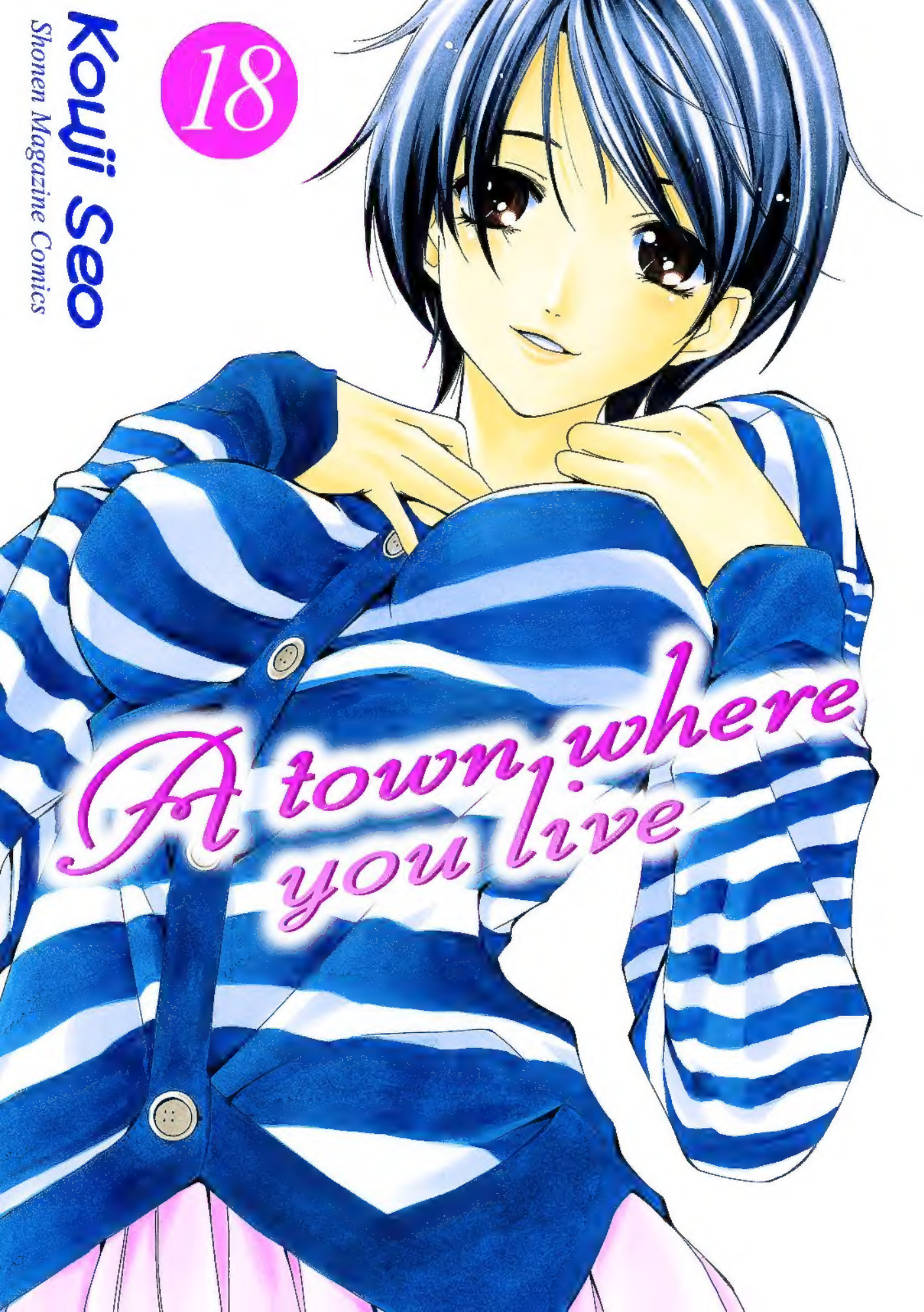
I hope you'll do that, and...
...keep on making me happy.
Suzuka...
IF you say so...
Okay.
Yeah.
GRIP
Oh?
But... I'm sorry. You clearly love me, and yet...
...I thought something different when I saw the guys in the men's bath.

Bonus Chapter End

Kouji Seo

18

Shonen Magazine Comics



A town where you live